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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

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1 December 1967



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Information as of 1600
1 December 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy fighting has been reported near the Marine outpost of Con Thien for the first time in several months.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Fighting continues near the Cambodian border in northern III Corps (Paras. 1-3). US Marines engaged an enemy company near Con Thien on 30 November. There are suggestions of an enemy buildup near Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri Province (Paras. 4-9).

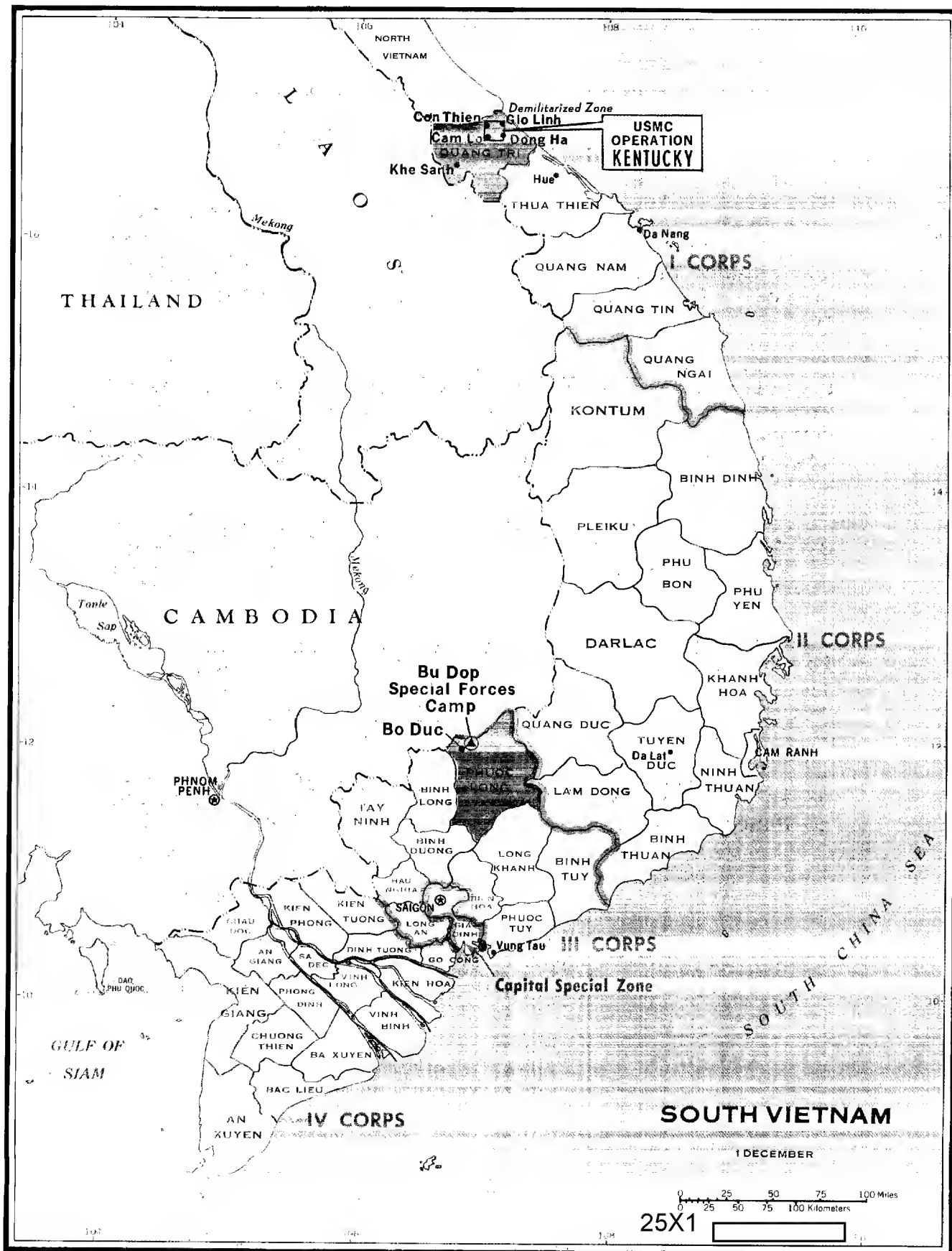
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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Sharp fighting was reported near the Special Forces Camp at Bu Dop for the third consecutive day on 30 November. A 1st Infantry Division patrol came under heavy enemy fire while moving into the rubber tree groves adjacent to the Bu Dop airstrip. No casualty figures have been reported in this latest flare-up. Bu Dop is located along the Cambodian border some 80 miles north of Saigon.

2. Delayed reports reveal that South Vietnamese irregulars and their US Special Forces advisers have had several sharp contacts during the past three days while patrolling in the vicinity of Bu Dop. In these clashes, the South Vietnamese claim to have killed 40 enemy troops while losing 18 men killed and 12 wounded. In addition, one US adviser and 41 irregulars are listed as missing in action.

3. During the past three days nearly 150 Communist troops have been reported killed near Bu Dop and in an assault on the nearby Bo Duc district capital.

Increase in Enemy Activity in Quang Tri

4. A US Marine rifle company on patrol about two miles northeast of Con Thien, just south of the Demilitarized Zone, on 30 November encountered an estimated company-size Communist force in well-fortified camouflaged positions. Three additional Marine companies were committed and a coordinated assault was made against the enemy positions.

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5. Fighting raged for more than four hours during which 15 Americans were killed and 53 wounded. The enemy unit--believed to be a subordinate of the 803rd Regiment of the North Vietnamese 324B Division--lost 26 killed and nine weapons which were picked up after the battle.

6. The American forces are part of Operation KENTUCKY which began on 1 November. Four US Marine battalions have been patrolling the areas surrounding the US strongholds at Con Thien, Cam Lo, Dong Ha, and Gio Linh. The operation is geared to provide security for these bases, to seek out and destroy enemy infiltrators and to prevent further incursions by enemy main force units into Revolutionary Development areas. Maximum air, sea, and ground firepower is being directed at Communist base camps and supply points in the area.

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9. On 29 November, enemy forces to the north and west of the American garrison at Khe Sanh staged five separate incidents including mortar attacks on friendly partols. This increase in enemy military activity,

suggest the Communists may be planning a large-scale assault in the Khe Sanh area soon.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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